

CLAIM SUMMARY

1 Canceled

2-9 Withdrawn

10-34 Canceled

35 Previously Amended

36 Previously Presented

37 Currently Amended

38-39 Previously Presented

40 Withdrawn

41 Currently Amended

42 Withdrawn

43-46 Canceled

47 Currently Amended

48 Previously Amended

49-50 Previously Presented

51-54 Canceled

55-57 Previously presented

CLAIMS

1 (Canceled). An anchor for securing soft tissue to bone or to soft tissue comprising:

an attachment means having a long axis and a head at a first end of the long axis;

means to accommodate a securing or drive tool; and

an anchor hole through the head, the anchor hole having an upper aperture and a lower aperture, the anchor hole oriented to cause a line through the center of the anchor hole to intersect an extension of the long axis beyond the head.

2 (Withdrawn). The anchor or claim 1 further comprising:

a shoulder displaced about the attachment means near the head to provide a visual and tactile reference for maintaining proper head height above the bone.

3 (Withdrawn). The anchor or claim 1 wherein the upper aperture and lower aperture are chamfered.

4 (Withdrawn). The anchor or claim 3 wherein the chamfer extends from 5 to 50 percent of the total length of an anchor hole.

5 (Withdrawn). The anchor or claim 1 further comprising:

a plurality of anchor holes disposed about the

circumference of the head.

6 (Withdrawn). The anchor or claim 1 wherein the anchor comprises an inert material.

7 (Withdrawn). The anchor or claim 1 wherein the anchor comprises plastic, stainless steel, titanium alloy or absorbable material or a combination thereof.

8 (Withdrawn). The anchor or claim 1 wherein the attachment means comprises a screw.

9 (Withdrawn). The anchor or claim 8 wherein the means to accommodate a securing or drive tool comprises a drive aperture on the head to accept a tool for imparting torque to the anchor.

10 (Canceled). The anchor or claim 1 wherein the head is generally conical having a vertex, an upper surface and a lower surface, the vertex of the cone attached to the attachment means with the primary axis of the cone collinear with the long axis of the attachment means.

11 (Canceled). The anchor or claim 10 wherein the angle between

the lower surface and the long axis is between 90 and 150 degrees.

12 (Canceled). The anchor or claim 10 wherein the angle between the anchor holes and the long axis is between 0 and 75 degrees.

13 (Canceled). The anchor or claim 10 wherein the angle between the anchor holes and the long axis is between 35 and 50 degrees, and the chamfers are 45 degrees from a centerline through each anchor hole.

14(Canceled). A surgical anchor for reapproximating soft tissue to bone or to soft tissue comprising:

a screw having a head, a shank and a threaded end;

a shoulder between the body and the shank to provide a visual and tactile reference for proper head height above the bone;

means to accommodate a securing or drive tool; and

a plurality of generally radial anchor holes disposed about the circumference of the head and extending through the head, each anchor hole describing an angle between 0 and 75 degrees from the shank to the anchor hole.

15(Canceled). The anchor or claim 14 wherein the anchor comprises inert material.

16(Canceled). The anchor or claim 14 wherein the anchor comprises plastic, stainless steel, titanium allow or absorbable material or a combination thereof.

17(Canceled). The anchor or claim 14 wherein the anchor holes are skewed about the long axis of the body.

18(Canceled). The anchor or claim 14 wherein the plurality of anchor holes further comprise apertures that are chamfered with a chamfer extending from 5 to 50 percent of the total length of an anchor hole.

19(Canceled). The anchor or claim 14 wherein the head is an inverted cone having a generally flat upper surface and a sloping lower surface describing an angle between 90 and 150 degrees from the surface of the shank.

20(Canceled). The anchor or claim 14 wherein the means to accommodate a securing or drive tool comprises a drive aperture on the head to accept a tool for imparting torque to the anchor.

21(Canceled). An anchor for securing soft tissue to bone or to soft tissue comprising:

an attachment means having a long axis and a head at a first end of the long axis;

means to accommodate a securing or drive tool; and

an anchor hole through the head, the anchor hole having an upper aperture and a lower aperture, the anchor hole oriented to cause a line through the center of the anchor hole to be skew to the long axis.

22(Canceled). The anchor of claim 21 further comprising:

a shoulder displaced about the attachment means near the head to provide a visual and tactile reference for maintaining proper head height above the bone.

23(Canceled). The anchor of claim 21 wherein the upper aperture and the lower aperture are chamfered.

24(Canceled). The anchor of claim 23 wherein the chamfer extends from 5 to 50 percent of the total length of an anchor hole.

25(Canceled). The anchor of claim 21 further comprising:

a plurality of anchor holes disposed about the

circumference of the head.

26(Canceled). The anchor of claim 21 wherein the anchor holes are in a plane perpendicular to the long axis.

27(Canceled). The anchor of claim 21 wherein the attachment means comprises a screw.

28(Canceled). The anchor of claim 27 wherein the means to accommodate a securing or drive tool comprises a drive aperture on the head to accept a tool for imparting a torque to the anchor.

29(Canceled). The anchor of claim 21 wherein the anchor comprises an inert material.

30(Canceled). The anchor of claim 21 wherein the anchor comprises plastic, stainless steel, titanium allow or absorbable material or a combination thereof.

31(Canceled). The anchor of claim 21 wherein the head is generally conical having a vertex, an upper surface and a lower surface, the vertex of the cone attached to the attachment means

with the primary axis of the cone collinear with the long axis of the attachment means.

32(Canceled). The anchor of claim 31 wherein the angle between the lower surface and the long axis is between 90 and 150 degrees.

33(Canceled). The anchor of claim 31 wherein the angle between the anchor holes and the long axis is between 0 and 75 degrees.

34(Canceled). The anchor of claim 31 wherein the angle between the anchor holes and the long axis is between 35 and 50 degrees, and the chamfers are 45 degrees from a centerline through each anchor hole.

35 (Previously Amended). A surgical screw anchor comprising:

 threaded anchor body having a long axis and an outer dimension;

 a head at a first end of the anchor body adapted to accommodate a tool for securing or driving the anchor body into bone, the head having an outer dimension that is larger than the outer dimension of said anchor body; so said head is adapted to rest on the surface of a patient's bone when said anchor body is

engaged in the bone and said head is adapted to be located above the surface of the patient's bone when said anchor body is engaged in the patient's bone; and

a plurality of passages through the head, each passage having a longitudinal axis that is oriented at an angle with respect to the long axis of the anchor body, the longitudinal axis of each passage being oriented so that neither the longitudinal axis nor an extension of the longitudinal axis of each passage intersects the long axis of said anchor body, the passages being located above the surface of the patient's bone when said anchor body is engaged in the patient's bone, each passage having a first end and a second end and having the first end located adjacent to the patient's bone and the second end located spaced above the patient's bone with the second end spaced farther from the patient's bone than the first end of each passage when said anchor body is engaged in the bone.

36 (previously presented). The surgical anchor defined in Claim 35, wherein the head has an upper surface, at least a portion of each passage extending to the upper surface of the head.

37 (Currently Amended). A surgical anchor having a long axis for securing soft tissue to bone or to soft tissue comprising:

a threaded screw having a head, a shank and a threaded end, the head having an arcuate outer dimension with a center, the shank having an outer dimension and a long axis which is located near the center of the outer dimension of the head, with the outer dimension of the head being greater than the outer dimension of the shank so said head rests on the surface of a patient's bone when the threaded end is engaged in the bone and located above the surface of the patient's bone when the threaded end is engaged in the patient's bone;

the head including a driving element to accommodate a drive tool and a plurality of anchor holes each extending through the head at an oblique angle with respect to the long axis of the shank for receiving sutures, said anchor holes being located near the outer dimension of said head and radially spaced apart from the long axis of the shank and being located above the surface of the patient's bone when said threaded end is engaged in the patient's bone, each anchor hole being oriented so that neither the anchor hole nor an extension of the anchor hole intersects the long axis of said shank, each anchor hole having a first end and a second end, the second end of each anchor hole being spaced farther from the patient's bone than the first end of the anchor hole when said anchor body is engaged in the patient's bone.

38 (Previously Amended). The surgical anchor defined in Claim 37, wherein the outer dimension of the head is circular.

39 (Previously Amended). A surgical anchor comprising:

a threaded anchor body having a long axis and an outer dimension;

a head at a first end of the anchor body adapted to accommodate a tool for securing or driving the anchor body into the bone of a patient, said head having an outer dimension that is greater than the outer dimension of said anchor body so said head is adapted to rest on the surface of the patient's bone when said anchor body is engaged in the bone and is located above the patient's bone when the anchor body is engaged in the bone, said head further including a first outer surface oriented to extend in the direction of the surface of the bone of the patient and a second outer surface that is oriented to extend in the direction of the surface of the bone of the patient, with the first outer surface being located closer to the surface of the patient's bone than the second outer surface; and

at least two suture passages extending through said head for receiving sutures, each passage having a longitudinal axis that is oriented at an oblique angle to the long axis of said

anchor body and being oriented so that an extension of the longitudinal axis of each suture passage will not intersect the long axis of said threaded body, each of said suture passages having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion of each suture passage being located near the surface of the patient's bone and the second portion of each suture passage being located spaced apart from and above the surface of the patient's bone and each suture passage being located above the surface of the patient's bone when said anchor body is engaged in the patient's bone.

40 (Withdrawn). The surgical anchor defined in Claim 39, wherein the head has an upper surface, at least a portion of each suture passage extending to the upper surface of the head.

41 (Currently Amended). A surgical anchor comprising:

a threaded anchor body having a long axis, the anchor body having an outer dimension;

a first end of said anchor body adapted to accommodate a tool for attaching said anchor body to bone of a patient, said first end having an outer dimension, the outer dimension of said first end being greater than the outer dimension of said anchor body so said first end rests on the surface of a patient's bone

when said anchor body is engaged in the bone; and at least one suture-accommodating passage defined in said first end to be located spaced from and above the surface of the bone and any tissue associated with the bone when said threaded anchor body is mounted in the bone to accept a suture thereinto and therethrough after said anchor body has been attached to the bone, said suture-accommodating passage being radially spaced apart from the long axis of said threaded anchor body and having a portion thereof located near the outer dimension of said anchor body and having a first end located adjacent to the patient's bone and a second end spaced apart from the first end and above the patient's bone when said anchor body is engaged in the patient's bone said suture-accommodating passage being oriented so that neither the suture-accommodating passage nor an extension of the suture-accommodating passage intersects the long axis of said threaded anchor body, the second end of said suture-accommodating passage being spaced farther from the patient's bone than the first end of said suture-accommodating passage when said anchor body is engaged in the patient's bone.

42 (Withdrawn). The surgical anchor defined in Claim 41 further including means on said anchor body for signaling when said anchor body is suitably fixed to the bone.

43 (Canceled). A method of securing soft tissue of a patient to bone of the patient comprising:

securing an anchor body to bone of a patient; and

after securing the anchor body to the bone of the patient, attaching a suture to the anchor body.

44 (Canceled). The method defined in Claim 43 wherein the anchor body includes a head and a suture-securing passage in the head, and the step of attaching a suture to the anchor body includes passing the suture through the suture-securing passage.

45 (Canceled). The method defined in Claim 43 wherein the anchor body includes a plurality of suture-securing passages and each suture-securing passage has a first end and a second end, and the step of attaching a suture to the body includes passing the suture through one suture-securing passage of the plurality of suture-securing passages from the first end of the one suture-securing passage toward the second end of the one suture-securing passage and passing another suture through a second suture-securing passage of the plurality of suture-securing passages from the second end of the second suture-securing passage toward the first end of the second suture-securing passage.

46 (Canceled). The method defined in Claim 44 further including passing a rethreading suture through the suture-securing passage after a suture initially placed in the suture-securing passage becomes inoperative.

47 (Currently Amended). A surgical screw anchor for anchoring a suture to a bone structure of a patient and adapted for placement therein with a placement tool, which anchor comprises:

a threaded anchor body with a pointed first end, a second end and a body axis extending through said ends;

a head located at the anchor body outer end, said head having an outer surface that extends in a direction of the surface of a patient's bone when said threaded anchor body is in place in the bone;

said head being adapted to couple with the placement tool;

a suture passage extending through the head and having first and second apertures and a bore connecting the first and second apertures, the second aperture being located farther away from the surface of the patient's bone than the first aperture when said head is in place in the bone;

said suture passage being adapted to receive a suture;

said suture passage opening onto the outer surface of said head at said apertures; and

said suture passage being oriented with respect to the body axis to extend in a direction of the body axis with one of said

apertures positioned closer to the bone structure of the patient than the other aperture when said threaded anchor body is in position in the bone structure, said suture passage being oriented so that neither the suture passage nor an extension of the suture passage intersects the body axis.

48 (Previously Amended). A surgical screw anchor for anchoring a suture to a bone structure of a patient and adapted for placement therein with a placement tool, which anchor comprises:

a threaded anchor body with a pointed first end, a second end and a body axis extending through said ends;

a head located at the anchor body outer end and having an outer surface that is oriented to extend in the direction of a surface of a patient's bone when said threaded anchor body is in place in the patient's bone;

said head being adapted to couple with the placement tool;

a suture passage extending through the head and having first and second apertures;

said suture passage being adapted to receive a suture;

said suture passage opening onto the outer surface of said head at said apertures; and

said suture passage being oriented at a non-right angle to the body axis of said threaded anchor body, the first aperture

of said passage being located closer to the surface of the patient's bone than the second aperture when said threaded anchor body is in place in the patient's bone, said suture passage being oriented so that neither the suture passage nor an extension of the suture passage intersects the body axis.

49 (Previously Presented). The surgical screw anchor defined in Claim 35 wherein said head has an outer periphery which is arcuate in shape and has a center, the long axis of said threaded anchor body is located near the center of the arcuate shape and said passages are all spaced radially apart from the center of the arcuate shape.

50 (Previously Presented). The surgical screw anchor defined in Claim 35 wherein the longitudinal axis of each passage extends at an oblique angle to a plane containing the long axis of said anchor body and is spaced apart from the long axis of said anchor body.

51 (Canceled). The surgical screw anchor defined in Claim 35 wherein the longitudinal axis of each passage is oriented so that an extension of the longitudinal axis of each passage does not intersect the long axis of said anchor body.

52 (Canceled). The surgical screw anchor defined in Claim 51 wherein the longitudinal axis of each passage is oriented so that an extension of the longitudinal axis of each passage does not intersect an extension of the long axis of said anchor body.

53. (Canceled). The surgical screw anchor defined in Claim 37 wherein each anchor hole has a longitudinal axis and the longitudinal axis of each passage is oriented so that an extension of the long axis of each passage does not intersect the long axis of said anchor body.

54 (Canceled). The surgical screw anchor defined in Claim 41 wherein said suture-accommodating passage has a longitudinal axis and the longitudinal axis of said suture-accommodating passage is oriented so that an extension thereof does not intersect the long axis of said anchor body.

55 (Previously Presented). A surgical screw anchor comprising:
threaded anchor body having a long axis and an outer dimension;
a head at a first end of the anchor body adapted to

accommodate a tool for securing or driving the anchor body into a patient's bone, the head having an outer dimension that is larger than the outer dimension of said anchor body; and

a plurality of passages through said head, each passage having a first end and a second end and longitudinal axis that extends between the first end of the passage and the second end of the passage and which is oriented at an angle with respect to the long axis of said anchor body, each passage being spaced apart from the long axis of the anchor body and oriented so that neither the passage nor an extension of the passage intersects the long axis of said anchor body, the second end of each passage being spaced farther from the patient's bone than the first end of the passage when said anchor body is engaged in the patient's bone.

56 (Previously Presented). The surgical screw anchor defined in Claim 55 wherein adjacent passages are parallel to each other.

57 (Previously Presented). The surgical screw anchor defined in Claim 56 wherein the passages are oriented in a circular pattern with respect to the long axis of said anchor body.